

be better attained, or, in other words, I think more information could be elicited, if our discussions took more the shape of a debate; it might perhaps be the means of causing a greater interest to be taken in the meetings, and cause a more earnest spirit generally to pervade our ranks. What I mean is, that when any one has read an article, and in it has put forth anything that some other member does not quite agree with, if he would stand right up and point out those parts, and adduce his own reasons for differing, I think it would give more zest to our meetings, and that we should be mutually benefited thereby.

Then again, without wishing to interfere with any established rule of the Society, I would suggest that by having one person constantly in the chair, we lose to the Society the experience of one who, from his long and intimate connexion with Horticultural Societies, could give us much and varied valuable information.

### HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MR. EDITOR.—Monday, the 25th day of May last, the day set apart for the celebration of the Queen's birth day, a day which the loyal citizens of Hamilton highly appreciate and enjoy, as has been usual, the Horticultural Society held its first exhibition for the season in the Mechanics' Hall; the day was favourable, and the attendance in the afternoon and evening very good. The Spring Shows of this society have hitherto been considered amongst the foremost in the Province, if not the best. The latter, in the opinion of competent judges, far exceeded any of the former in a fine display of plants. The entries by the practical gardeners and amateurs were more in numbers than on any former occasion at this time of the season. The quality of the stove and greenhouse plants were good, and showed a considerable improvement in their formation and growth. The display of foliage, greenhouse, and stove plants from the gardens of W. P. McLaren and John Brown, Esqs., was excellent; also the geraniums, fuchsias, and greenhouse plants from the gardens of I. Buchanan, John Young, and R. Juson, Esqs. The amateurs came out very well and produced some very good specimens. We wish much more to be done on their parts, and long to see the exertions made by the many that are now confined to the few. The vegetable and fruit department was, for this time of the year, well represented. The collection of apples may be said to be the largest and best we have seen for a long time at a May Show. The grapes from the orchard houses of W. P. McLaren, Esq., deserved the very highest commendation. His pot strawberries were also good.

Mr. Fleming, from Toronto, exhibited a collection of cut blooms of Pe'argonium, geraniums. The plants Mr. Fleming has lately im-

ported; the flowers were very fine and much admired.

I shall not trouble you with the whole prize list, only the leading things, as follows:—

Best Achimenes, in pots, Thomas Buchanan, gardener to W. P. McLaren, Esq. Best Balsams, W. W. Chapman, gardener to I. Buchanan, Esq., Auchmar House, Clairmont Park. Best Calceolarias, in pots, Wm. Hill, gardener to John Brown, Esq.; 2nd prize, R. Murray, gardener to John Young, Esq.; 3rd do., Hugh Shaw, gardener to R. Juson, Esq. Best specimen Calceolaria, Wm. Hill. Best Cinerarias, Thos. Buchanan. Best Carnation, in pots, Wm. Chapman. Best four Fuchsias, R. Murray, (varieties—Lord Clyde, Guiding Star, Rose of Castille, Bank's Glory); 2nd prize, Hugh Shaw, varieties—Venus de Medici, Souvenir de Chiswick, British Sailor, Ariel. Best three double Fuchsias, Hugh Shaw, (varieties—Sir Colin Campbell, Madam Cornellsen, Leoline; best specimen dark, R. Murray; best light, do. do.; 2nd do. dark, R. Murray; 2nd do. light, H. Shaw. Society's prize for the best six foliage plants, Wm. Hill, (varieties—Caladium Chantinii, Caladium Whytii, Pavetta Borbonica, Farfugium Grande, Dracena terminalis, Colens Verschaffelta, a new plant; 2nd do., Thomas Buchanan, (varieties—Caladium Chantinii, Colens bloomii, Cissis discolor, Maranta Zebrina, Maranta Regalis, Solanum Cuscuta). Best six, Thos. Buchanan, (varieties—Calladium Bellymii, Cynophyllum magnificum, Maranta Regalis, Maranta Zebrina, Caladium Chantinii, Campyloberteris regalis; commended by Wm. Hill with Cissis discolor, C. ton tricolor, Maranta Zebrina, Calladium Whytii, Cynophyllum magnificum. Best 1 green-house plants, Wm. Hill, (varieties—Combretum purpureum, Penes Carne, Lechnautia formosa, Ixora coccinea, Stephanotis floribunda, Calceolaria rugosa, Hydrangea Hortensis, Cuphea Platycentra, Euphorbia splendens, Centradenia floribunda); 2nd do. R. Murray, (varieties—Cytisus racemosus, Euphorbia Splendens, Santana delicata, Santana Rosea, Calceolaria rugosa, Calceolaria St. phurea, Cuphea Platycentra, Solea Concolor, Polygala dalmatina, Russalia Juncea, Hydrangea, Hortensis, Metrosideros floribundus, Chidensis; W. Hill, (varieties—Epidendrum Cauliflorum, Oncidium Flexuosum, Oncidium Papilio, Gongora atropurpurea. Special prize for green-house plants was taken by Thos. Buchanan, (varieties—Stephanotis Floribunda, Hoya Carnosa, Hoya Bella, Cyrtosperma Reflexum, Hydrangea Hortensis, Vinea Rosea, Vin. Alba, Erica Ventricosa Rubra, Calceolaria. O'Connell, Azalea Chalonii, Azalea Grenville, Aralea Gem.) Best four P. Geraniums, Thos. Buchanan, (varieties—Brunetta, Topings, Elegans, Butterfly, Sir Henry Smith; 2nd do. R. Murray, (varieties—Elegans, Arnold's Virgin Queen, Reine Debal, Alexandrina. Special prize in this class taken by Thos. Buchanan.